

I. Introduction

In the Office Action dated Dec. 9, 2004, the Examiner objected to Claim 7 due to an informality. Further, Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over C. Rigney, RFC 2865 – Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS), (2000), at <http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc2865.html> (“Rigney”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,233,608 (“Laursen”). Finally, Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rigney in view of Laursen and William Stallings, Cryptography and Network Security (1999) (“Stallings”). In this Amendment, Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-22 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

II. Claim 7

The Examiner objected to Claim 7 due to an informality. Applicants have amended Claim 7 to remove the informality. Applications respectfully request reconsideration of Claim 7 and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 7.

III. The Proposed Combination of Rigney and Laursen Does Not Render the Independent Claims Unpatentable

The currently claimed invention is directed to a method and system for providing a broadband internet system that offers improved access authentication and security. Each of the independent claims recites a broadband internet service subscriber sending a ***service request for broadband internet service*** to a broadband internet service provider. ***In response to receiving the request for broadband internet service***, a line identifier associated with a port assigned to the broadband internet service subscriber is retrieved from a database and transferred to the broadband internet service provider. Neither Rigney nor Laursen disclose at least the limitations of a line identifier associated with a broadband internet subscriber that is usable to authenticate a ***service request for broadband internet service*** to a broadband internet service provider, and retrieving the line identifier from a database and transmitting the line

identifier to the service provider ***in response to a request for broadband internet service***, as in the currently claimed invention.

Rigney discloses a protocol for carrying authentication, authorization, and configuration information between a shared Authentication Server and a Network Access Server that desires to authenticate its links. Rigney discloses a user submitting an access request to a server that contains attributes such as a user name, a user password, an ID of a client, or a Port ID that a user is accessing. However, Rigney does not disclose or suggest that the user may be requesting ***broadband internet service from a broadband internet provider***. Rigney only discloses that the user is requesting access to the server. Additionally, as admitted by the Examiner, Rigney does not disclose a line identifier associated with a broadband internet subscriber that is usable to authenticate a ***service request for broadband internet service*** to a broadband internet service provider. Thus, due to the fact Rigney does not disclose a line identifier usable to authenticate a service request for broadband internet service, Rigney necessarily does not disclose retrieving the line identifier described above from the database and transmitting the line identifier to the service provider ***in response to the request for broadband internet service***.

Like Rigney, Laursen also does not disclose a line identifier associated with a broadband internet subscriber that is usable to authenticate a ***service request for broadband internet service*** to a broadband internet service provider or retrieving the line identifier from a database and transmitting the line identifier described above to the service provider ***in response to a request for broadband internet service***. Laursen discloses a system that authenticates users of devices having limited computing power such as cellular phones. As cited by the Examiner, Laursen discloses a database that stores personalized information of a user account associated with a device ID. Critically, to access and retrieve information from the database, a user must input credential information such as a username and password. Therefore, the information stored in the database is not used to authorize a subscriber that submitted a service request such as ***requesting broadband internet service***. Further, the database is not accessed ***in response to a request for broadband internet access***. The database is accessed when a user enters a username and password.

Due to the fact neither Rigney or Laursen disclose a line identifier associated with a broadband internet subscriber that is usable to authenticate ***a service request for broadband internet service*** or retrieving the line identifier from a database and transmitting the line identifier to the service provider ***in response to a request for broadband internet service***, any combination of Rigney and Laursen necessary cannot render the amended independent claims, or any of the independent claims, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

IV. The Addition of Stallings to the Proposed Combination Does Not Render the Independent Claims Unpatentable.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rigney in view of Laursen and Stallings. Chapter 13 of Stallings, cited by the Examiner, discloses various encryption and authentication protocols, as well as various internet network architectures that enhance security. Like Rigney and Laursen, Stallings also fails to disclose a line identifier associated with a broadband internet subscriber that is usable to authenticate ***a service request for broadband internet service*** or retrieving the line identifier from a database and transmitting the line identifier to the service provider ***in response to a request for broadband internet service***. Thus, any combination of Rigney, Laursen, and Stallings necessarily does not teach the currently claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott W. Brim", is written over a horizontal line.

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